

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problems Mailbox.**

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)



The Patent Office
Concept House
Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

In accordance with the rules, the words "public limited company" may be replaced by p.l.c., plc, P.L.C. or PLC.

Re-registration under the Companies Act does not constitute a new legal entity but merely subjects the company to certain additional company law rules.

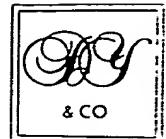
Signed

Dated

R. McChoney

3 JAN 2001

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)

15DEC99 E499231-1 003046
P01/7700 0.00-9929517.2

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1RH**Request for a grant of a patent**(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get
an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help
you fill in this form)

1. Your reference

P/6384.GB MKH (C.331)

2. Patent application
(The Patent Office n**9929517.2**

15 DEC 1999

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant
(underline all surnames)BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB COMPANY
P.O. BOX 4000
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08543-4000
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

DELAWARE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

4. Title of the invention

OSTOMY COUPLING

5. Name of your agent (if you have one) *SAC 151/77
8/9/02*"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent
(including the postcode)

~~D YOUNG & CO~~ Nova pat International
~~21 NEW FETTER LANE~~ C/o Marks great Tatars
~~LONDON~~ Parchment House, 13
~~EC4A 1DA~~ Northburgh Street
~~59006~~ London EC1V 0JP.

Patents ADP number (if you have one)

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and date of filing of the or each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number	Country	Priority application number (if you know it)	Date of filing (day/month/year)
---	---------	---	------------------------------------

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day/month/year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:
a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
See note (d))

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form --

Description 3
Claims(s) 1
Abstract
Drawing(s) 5 15

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

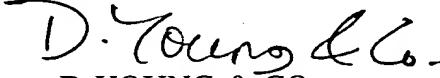
Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature	Date
	
D YOUNG & CO Agents for the Applicants	13.12.99

12. Name and daytime telephone number of the person to contact in the United Kingdom MILES K. HOLMES 020 7353 4343

Warning

After an application for a patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be prohibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977. You will be informed if it is necessary to prohibit or restrict your invention in this way. Furthermore, if you live in the United Kingdom, Section 23 of the Patents Act 1977 stops you from applying for a patent abroad without first getting written permission from the Patent Office unless an application has been filed at least 6 weeks beforehand in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction prohibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction has been revoked.

Notes

- a) If you need help to fill in this form or you have any questions, please contact the Patent Office on 0645 500505
- b) Write your answers in capital letters using black ink or you may type them
- c) If there is not enough space for all the relevant details on any part of this form, please continue on a separate sheet of paper and write "see continuation sheet" in the relevant part(s). Any continuation sheet should be attached to this form.
- d) If you answered 'Yes' Patents Form 7/77 will need to be filed.
- e) Once you have filled in the form you must remember to sign and date it.
- f) For details of the fee and ways to pay please contact the Patent Office.

Ostomy Coupling

This invention relates to the field of ostomy products; and in particular to a coupling for releasably attaching an ostomy pouch to a pad or wafer worn on the body. The term "ostomy" is intended to be interpreted broadly, and includes colostomy,
5 urostomy and ileostomy.

The invention relates to a type of coupling in which a deformable ring, for example, a split ring (or a ring which behaves substantially as a split ring) is used to fasten two coupling members together. The ring can be deformed to permit separation of the coupling members. Such a principle is described, for example, in GB-A-
10 2301533, GB-A-2299761, and EP-A-0737456; the full contents of these applications are explicitly included herein as if set out here in full.

In the following summaries, the reference numerals in brackets refer, by way of example only, to features illustrated in the accompanying drawings. The reference numerals are not intended to limit the scopes of the summaries.

15 In one aspect of the invention, a coupling member (10; 40) comprises a channel region (12), a first wall (14) of the channel tapering in a curved taper towards the second wall such that the width of the channel narrows with a curved taper towards the channel floor.

Preferably, the channel (12) is wider (at least at one point) than it is deep.

20 Preferably, the channel (12) is substantially continuous, although it could be discontinuous (e.g. channel segments).

Preferably, the channel (12) is generally annular.

In another aspect, a coupling member (30) comprises an annular seal (32) having a curved configuration.

25 Preferably, the seal (32) comprises a sealing wiper.

In another aspect, the invention provides an ostomy coupling comprising a first coupling member (10; 40) releasably securable to a second coupling (30) member by means of a deformable coupling ring (20; 50) carried by one (10; 40) of the coupling members, the first coupling member (10; 40) comprising a channel (12) for receiving a
30 rim (34) of the second coupling member (30), the rim (34) carrying a sealing wiper

(32), and wherein a first wall (14) of the channel tapers with a curved taper to provide a generally curved seat for the sealing wiper (32) when the coupling members are secured together.

In another aspect, the invention provides an ostomy coupling member (10) having an annular channel (16) extending radially inwardly from the side of the coupling member (10), the coupling member (10) carrying a deformable ring or split ring (20) received within the channel (16), wherein the ring (or split ring) (20) is shaped to form a generally smooth outer contour with the coupling member (10).

Preferably, the ring (20) has a tapered outer surface (22). Preferably, the contour or profile of the coupling member (10) with the ring (20) mounted thereon is trapezoid.

Preferably, the ring (20) comprises at least one projection (24) for projecting through an aperture (18) in the coupling member.

Preferably, the coupling member (10) comprises a second channel (12), and the aperture or apertures (18) communicate with the second channel (12).

Preferably, the ring is, or behaves substantially as, a split ring (20).

In another aspect, the invention provides a coupling member (40) comprising at least one generally radially projecting guide (42), the coupling member (40) carrying a deformable ring or split ring (50) mounted on the guide (42), the ring (or split ring) (50) having channel means (52) therein for receiving the guide (42), such that portions of the ring (50) fit on either side of the guide (42) to hold the ring (50) captive on the guide (42).

Preferably, the ring is, or behaves substantially as, a split ring (50).

Preferably, each arm of the split ring (50) is bifurcated to form the channel means (52).

The above aspects may be used independently or in combination.

Embodiments of the invention are illustrated, by way of example only, in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 shows various views of a first embodiment of plastics bodyside coupling member (40) having a curved profile coupling channel (12), and a generally radially projecting guide (42).

Fig. 2 shows various views of a plastics split locking ring (50) for fitting around the guide (42) of the coupling member of Fig. 1. The ring has locking projections (54) which project through apertures (44) into the coupling channel (12);

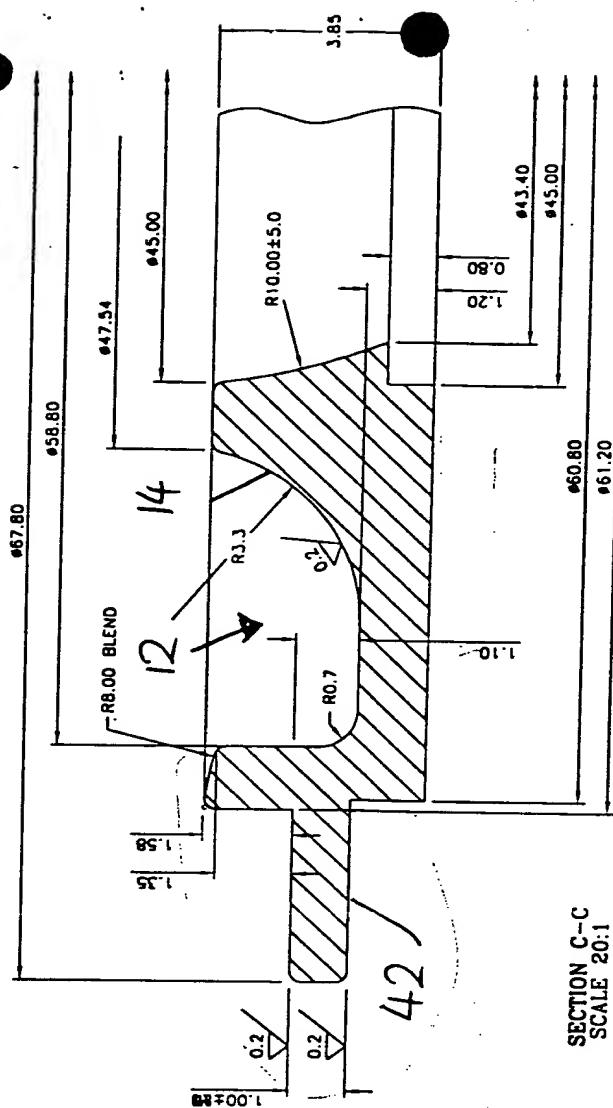
5 Fig. 3 shows various views of a second embodiment of plastics bodyside coupling member (10) having a curved profile coupling channel (12), and an outer channel (16) for receiving a locking ring (20);

Fig. 4 shows various views of a split locking ring (20) for fitting to the outer channel (16) of the coupling member of Fig. 3. The ring has locking projections (24) which project through apertures (18) into the coupling channel (12); and

10 Fig. 5 shows various views of a bagside coupling member (30) usable with the bodyside coupling members of any preceding Figure. The bagside coupling member has a rim (34) carrying a deflectable sealing wiper (32) having a curved profile. When the rim (34) and the wiper (32) are received in the coupling channel (12), the channel provides a curved seal seat for the sealing wiper. The rim (34) also has an undercut 15 projection (36) for co-operating with the locking projections of the locking rings. The bagside coupling member (30) includes an integral finger tab (38) for ease of manipulation during assembly and disassembly of the coupling.

It will be appreciated that the foregoing description is by way of example only and that many modifications may be made using the principles of the invention. The
20 Applicant claims projection for any novel feature or idea described herein and/or illustrated in the drawings whether or not emphasis has been placed thereon.

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)



1 / 5

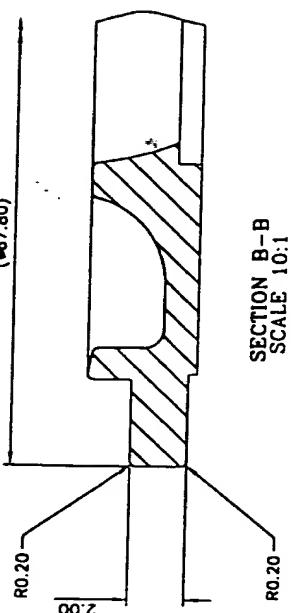
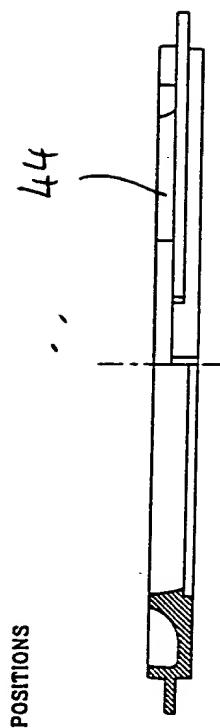
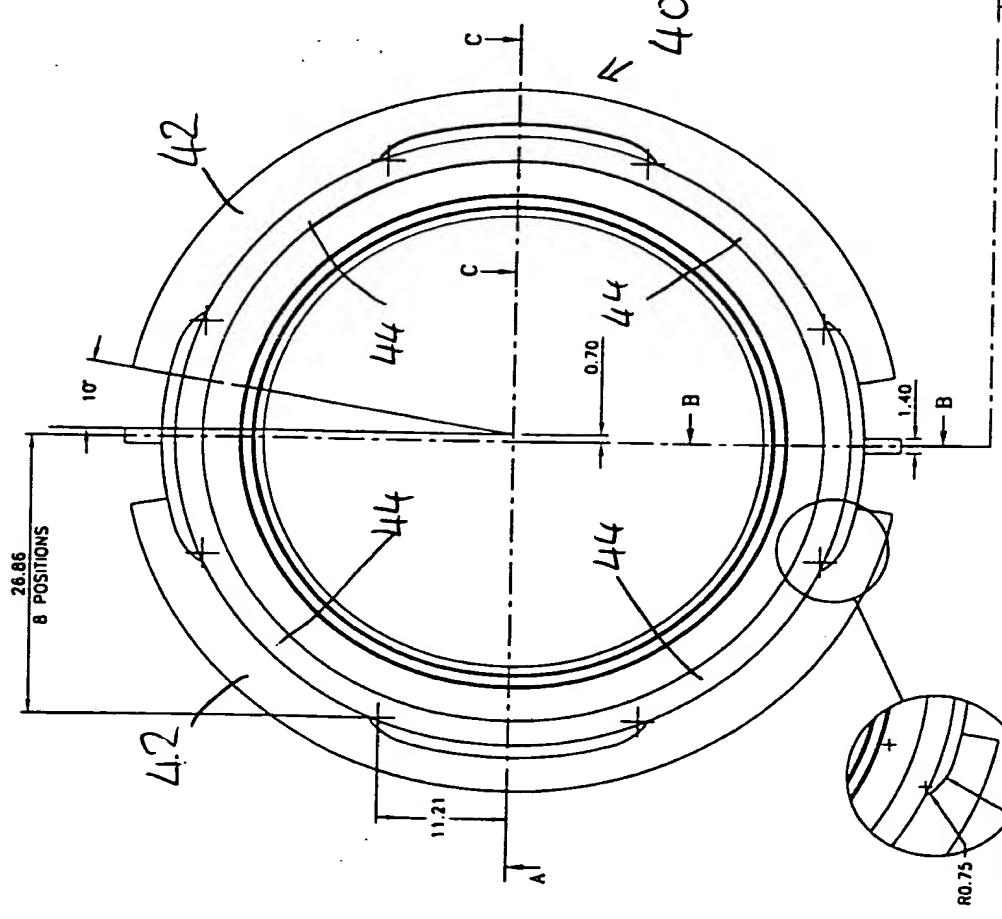


Fig. 1



SECTION A-A

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)

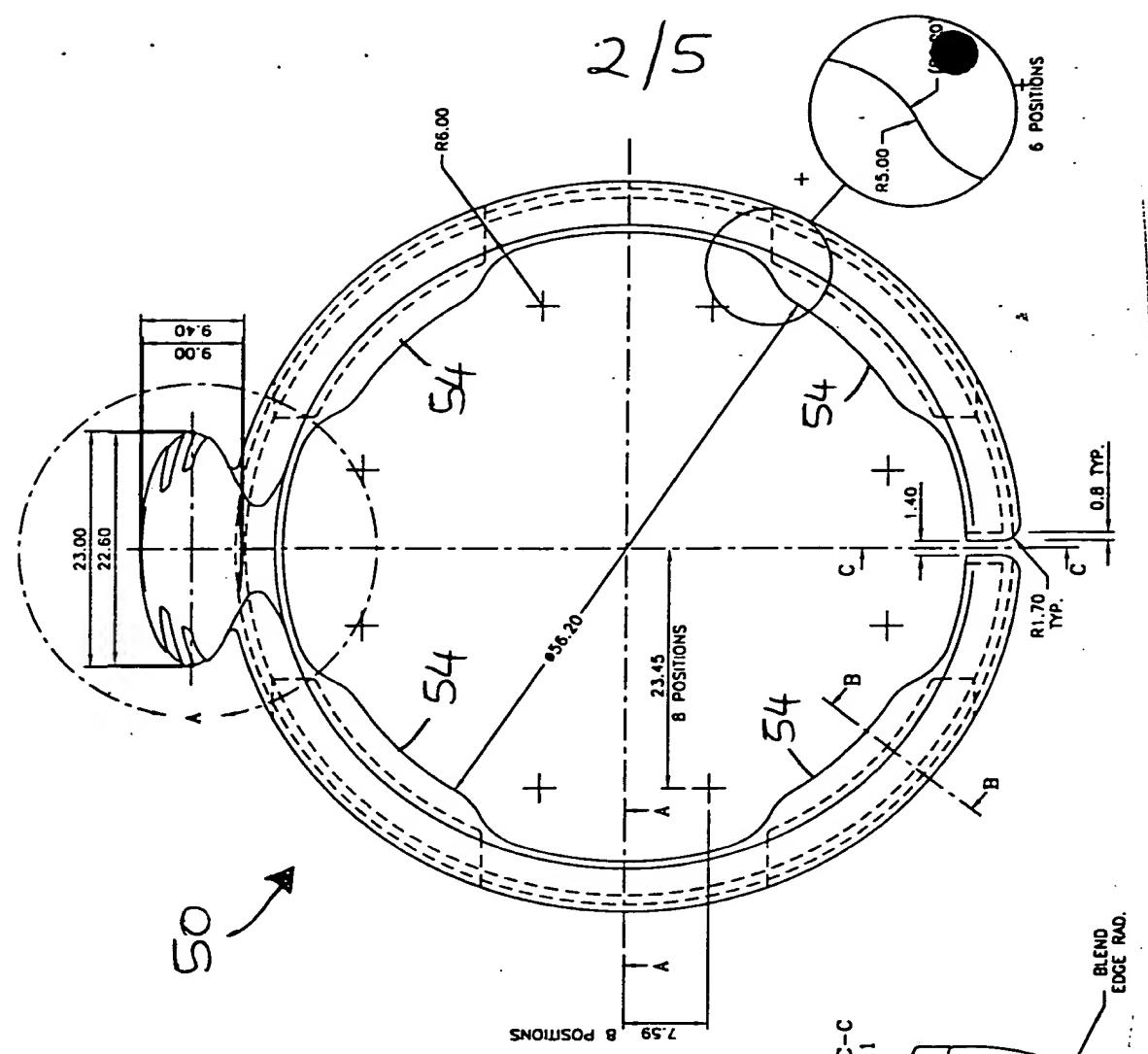
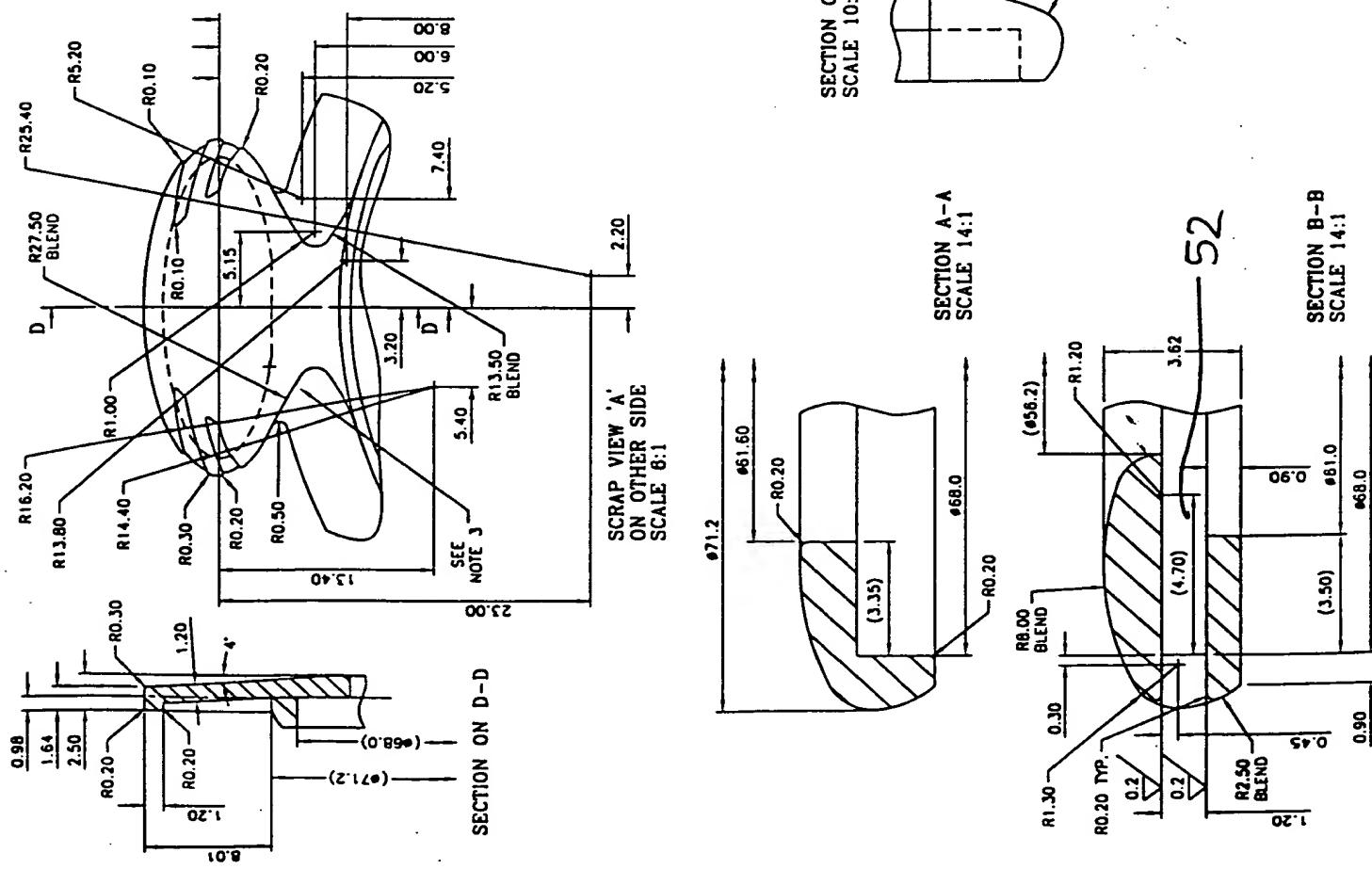
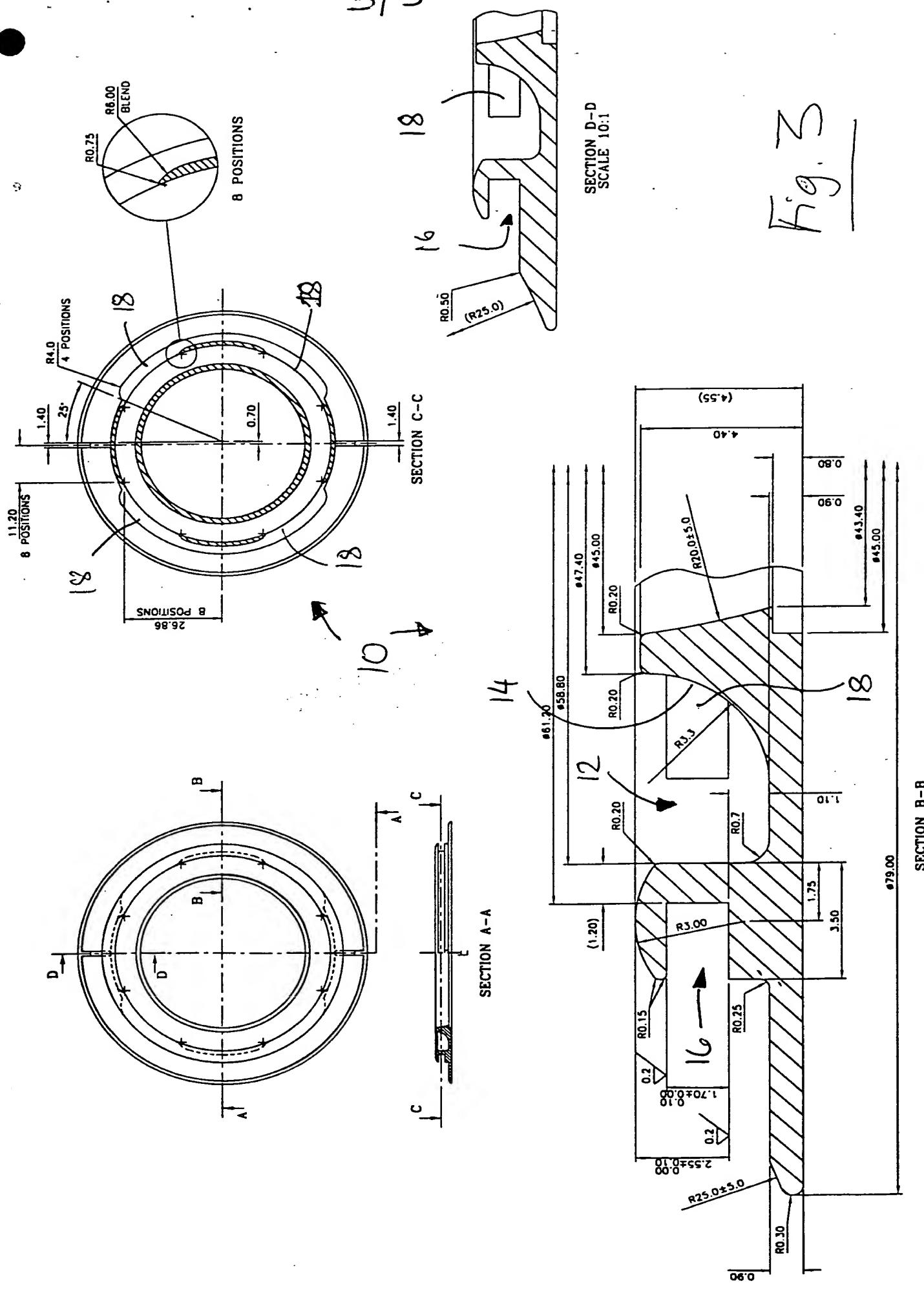


Fig. 2



THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)

315



THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)

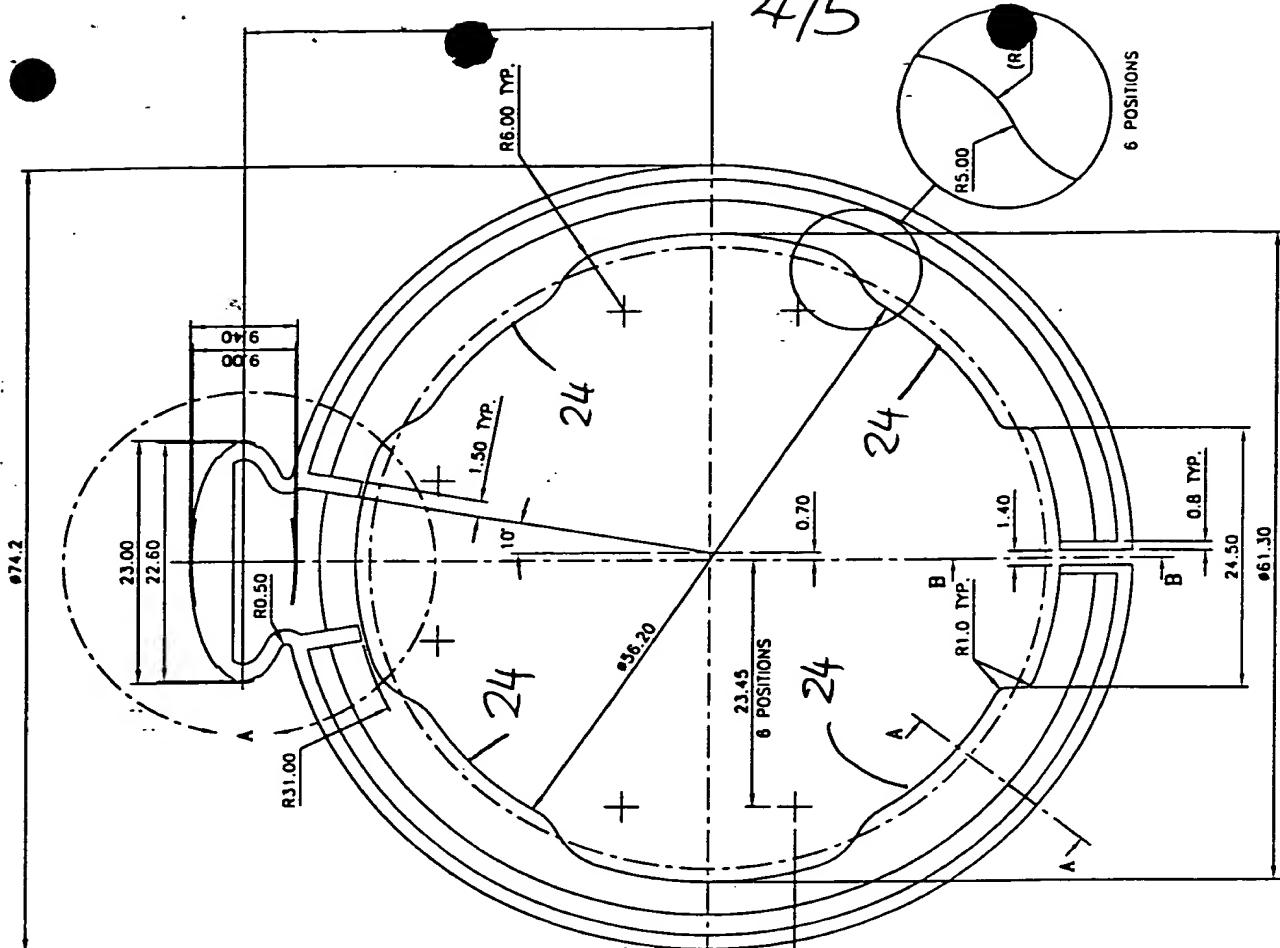
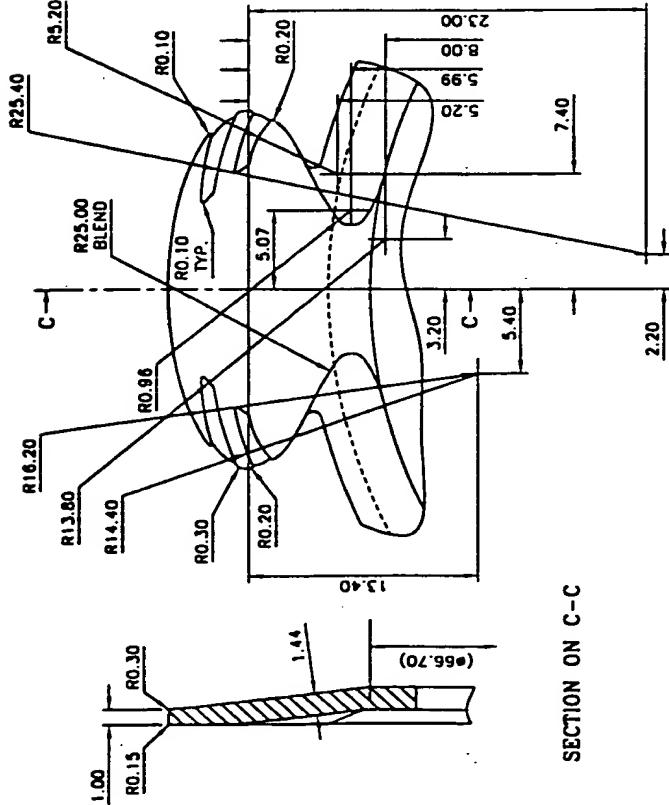
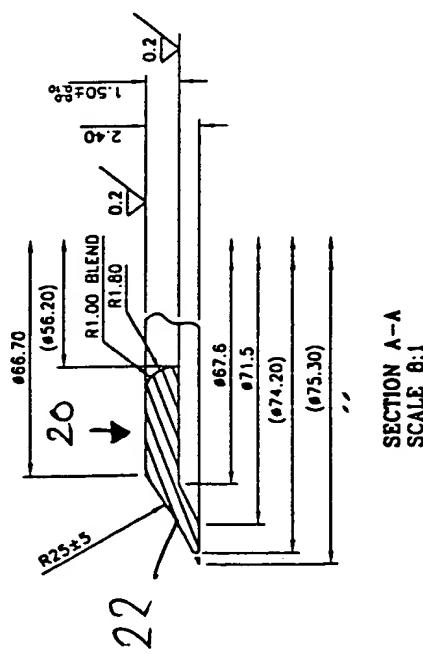


Fig. 4



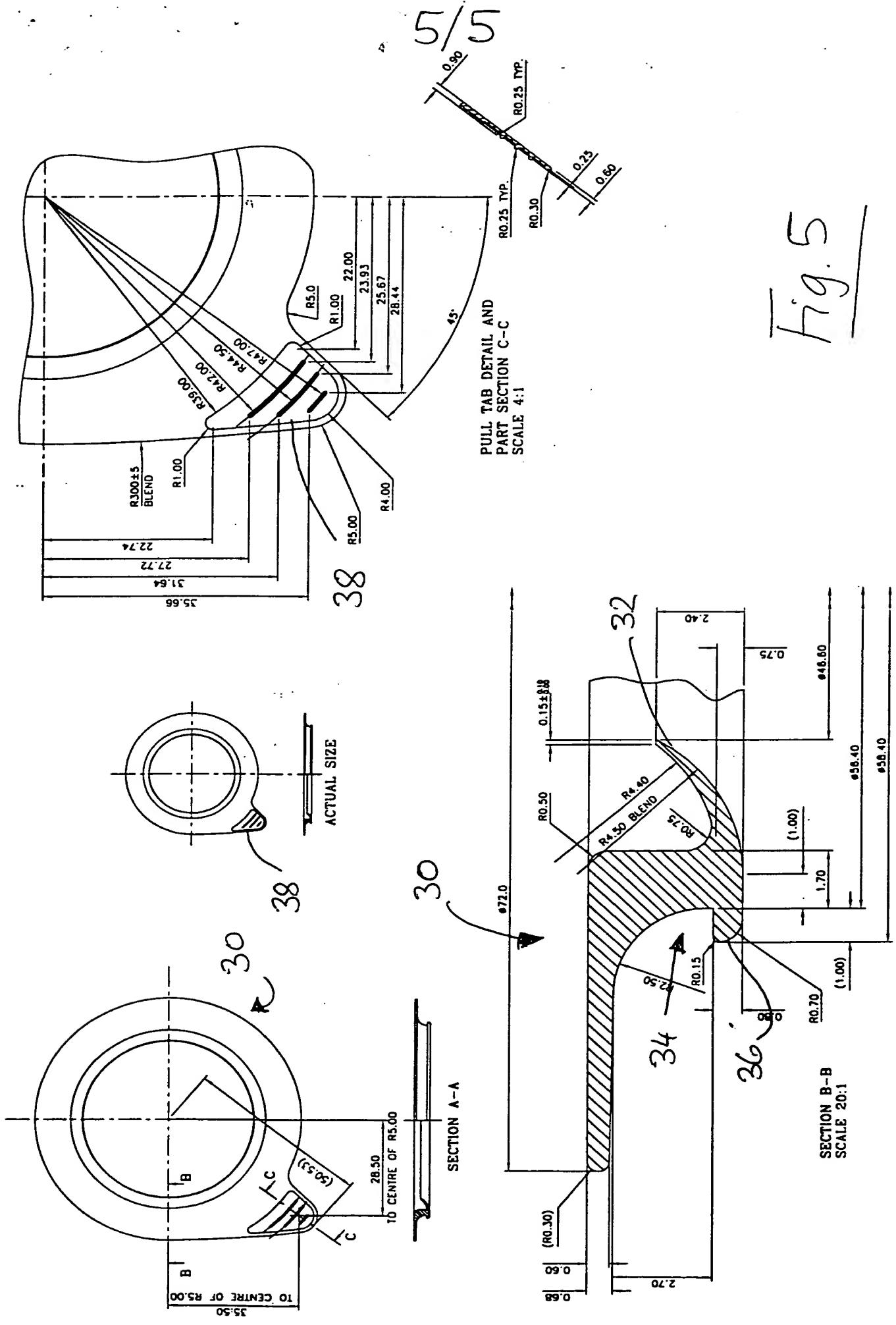
SCRAP VIEW 'A'
ON OTHER SIDE
SCALE 6:1



SECTION A-A
SCALE 6:1

**SECTION B-B
SCALE 0:1**

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)



THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)